

25X1

22 August 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDO/SOIC,

ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

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FROM: [REDACTED]

OGI/GD/IT

SUBJECT: Activities of the Nicarao and Aracely

In response to your request for information on the whereabouts of two Nicaraguan ships since January 1983, I have prepared the attached report. [REDACTED]

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Attachment:

Activities of the Nicarao and Aracely  
GI-M-83-10193

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SUBJECT: Activities of the Nicarao and Aracely

When in Nicaragua, the small roll-on/roll-off ships Nicarao (1157 DWT) and the Aracely (3775 DWT) spend periods of from a few days to a month or more moored at or near the port of Rama on the Rio Escendido. Rama is near "Arlen Siu" the point at which the ships usually deliver imported cargo for transportation inland.

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These ships transport cargo between Cuba (usually Havana or Cienfuegos) and Nicaragua (El Bluff, Rama, or Bluefields) on a nonscheduled basis. They are also used to lighter cargo to Arlen Siu from larger oceangoing ships that occasionally anchor off El Bluff. In most cases these oceangoing ships have carried arms to Nicaragua. One or two such shipments have arrived each year since 1981.

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The Nicarao and the Aracely were periodically observed anchored in the river near Rama from early December 1982 through late May 1983. For some periods during that time only one of the two was seen, indicative that the second ship was on a short voyage--probably to Cuba. Both ships were also seen at El Bluff during that period and both probably made several trips up and down the Rio Escondido between El Bluff and Rama. The Nicarao was also observed in Havana between 29 April and 4 May.

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In the past three months, both ships were seen moored at Rama from 10 May to 28 May. Between 28 May and 2 June they shuttled up and down the Rio Escondido between Arlen Siu and a Bulgarian freighter anchored off El Bluff, lighterizing an arms cargo ashore. Between 2 June and 2-4 July both remained moored at Rama. Both then departed for Havana, arriving between 6 and 10 July and the Nicarao remained in Havana through at least 11 August undergoing repairs to her winches. The Aracely departed Havana on 25 July, arriving at El Bluff on 27 July and has been moored at Rama since at least 5 August.

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